

**HISTORIC CONTEXT FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARM LIFE
IN NEW CASTLE AND KENT COUNTIES, DELAWARE
1830-1940**

	PAGE
TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
ABSTRACT.....	i
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	v
LIST OF TABLES.....	iix
I. INTRODUCTION.....	1
II. PROJECT METHODOLOGY.....	5
A. Historic Context Narrative.....	5
B. Definition of Archaeological Property Types.....	9
C. Archaeological Research Questions.....	9
D. Criteria for Evaluation of Archaeological Resources.....	10
E. Evaluation of Inventoried Archaeological Property Types.....	10
F. Goals, Priorities, and Information Needs.....	11
III. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT, NEW CASTLE AND KENT COUNTIES..	13
IV. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW, NEW CASTLE AND KENT COUNTIES....	25
A. 1830-1880.....	25
B. 1880-1940.....	27
V. HISTORIC CONTEXT NARRATIVE.....	30
A. Introduction.....	30
B. 1830-1880.....	31
1. Agricultural Production.....	31
2. Sociocultural Context.....	66
C. 1880-1940.....	96
1. Agricultural Production.....	96
2. Sociocultural Context.....	188
D. Contributions of Previous Archaeological Research on Farmsteads, 1830-1940.....	212
VI. ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROPERTY TYPES.....	233
A. Archaeological Property Types Previously Defined	233
B. Proposed Archaeological Property Types.....	233
1. Agricultural Complex.....	234
2. Agricultural Dwelling.....	236
3. Agricultural Outbuilding.....	237
4. Agricultural Quarter.....	239
5. Agricultural Transport Facility.....	240
a. Agricultural Landing Complex.....	240
b. Agricultural Transport Facility (Railroad/ Road).....	242
6. Agricultural Structure.....	243

7. Agricultural Commercial/ Industrial Outbuilding.....	244
C. Locational Patterns of Property Types.....	246
D. Current Condition of Property Types.....	256
VII. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS.....	267
A. Introduction.....	267
B. 1830-1880.....	275
1. Previous.....	275
2. Proposed.....	288
C. 1880-1940.....	291
1. Previous.....	291
2. Proposed.....	294
VIII. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES..	298
A. Criteria Previously Applied.....	298
B. New Criteria for Evaluation.....	311
IX. EVALUATION OF INVENTORIED HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSOCIATED WITH THE HISTORIC CONTEXT.....	333
X. GOALS, PRIORITES AND INFORMATION NEEDS FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROPERTY TYPES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONTEXT.....	352
A. Information Needs.....	352
B. Prioritized Goals.....	355
XI. CONCLUSION.....	360
XII. REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	361
XIII. APPENDICES	
Appendix 1: Data Base of Inventoried Historical Archaeological Sites Associated with Farming, New Castle and Kent Counties, 1830-1940	
Appendix 2: Abstracts of Reconnaissance and Intensive Archaeological Survey and Cultural Resource Management Plan Reports That Identified Historical Archaeological Sites Associated with the Historic Context: Archaeology of Agriculture and Farm Life in New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware, 1830-1940	
Appendix 3: Project Personnel	

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 1: Map of Delaware Showing Counties, Geographic Zones.....	3
Figure 2: Map of Delaware Showing Counties, and all Hundreds, with Study Hundreds Marked.....	7
Figure 3: Map of Delaware Showing Proposed Route 13 Relief Route Study Area and Proposed Route 301 Study Area.....	12
Figure 4: Mill Creek Hundred 1849 Rea and Price Map.....	15
Figure 5: Mill Creek Hundred 1868 Beers Atlas...	16
Figure 6: Appoquinimink Hundred 1849 Rea and Price Map.....	18
Figure 7: Appoquinimink Hundred 1868 Beers Atlas	19
Figure 8: Little Creek Hundred 1859 Byles Map...	20
Figure 9: Little Creek Hundred 1868 Beers Atlas.	21
Figure 10: Murderkill Hundred 1859 Byles Map.....	23
Figure 11: Murderkill Hundred 1868 Beers Atlas...	24
Figure 12: Map of Delaware, with Hundreds, Showing Five Agricultural-Ecological Regions, 1850.....	36
Figure 13: Acres of Land in Farms, New Castle County 1850-1935.....	98
Figure 14: Acres of Land in Farms, Kent County, 1850-1935.....	98
Figure 15: Acres of Corn, New Castle County, 1880-1935.....	111
Figure 16: Acres of Wheat, New Castle County, 1880-1935.....	111
Figure 17: Acres of Truck Crops, (Vegetables & Potatoes), New Castle County, 1900-1935.....	112

	Page
Figure 18: Acres of Alfalfa Hay, New Castle County, 1880-1935.....	112
Figure 19: Acres of Legumes for Hay, New Castle County, 1920-1935.....	113
Figure 20: Acres of Corn, Kent County, 1880-1935..	113
Figure 21: Acres of Wheat, Kent County, 1880-1935.	114
Figure 22: Acres of Alfalfa Hay, Kent County, 1900-1935.....	114
Figure 23: Acres of Legumes for Hay, Kent County, 1920-1935.....	115
Figure 24: Acres of Truck Crops (Vegetables & Potatoes), Kent County, 1900-1935....	115
Figure 25: Apple Trees of Bearing Age, New Castle County, 1890-1935.....	135
Figure 26: Peach Trees of Bearing Age, New Castle County, 1890-1935.....	135
Figure 27: Apple Trees of Bearing Age, Kent County, 1890-1935.....	136
Figure 28: Peach Trees of Bearing Age, Kent County, 1890-1935.....	136
Figure 29: Milk Cows, New Castle County, 1850-1935	157
Figure 30: Milk Cows, Kent County, 1850-1935.....	157
Figure 31: Swine, New Castle County, 1840-1935....	158
Figure 32: Swine, Kent County, 1840-1935.....	158
Figure 33: Sheep, New Castle County, 1840-1935....	159
Figure 34: Sheep, Kent County, 1840-1935.....	159
Figure 35: Chickens, New Castle County, 1880-1935.	161
Figure 36: Chickens, Kent County, 1880-1935.....	161
Figure 37: Gallons of Milk Produced, New Castle County, 1870-1930.....	165
Figure 38: Gallons of Milk Produced, Kent County, 1870-1930.....	165

	Page
Figure 39: Pounds of Butter Produced, New Castle, County, 1850-1935.....	166
Figure 40: Pounds of Butter Produced, Kent County, 1850-1935.....	166
Figure 41: Warrington-Benton Tenant Farm Complex, 1929.....	181
Figure 42: Map of New Castle and Kent Counties, with Drainages, Major Towns, and Site Locations.....	216
Figure 43: Areas in Which Historical Archaeological Resources are Threatened by Erosion, Agricultural Practices, and Development.....	256a

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table 1: Delaware Farms: Number and Acreage 1850-1870.....	32
Table 2: Delaware Farms: Production, 1840-1870....	41
Table 3: Delaware Farms: Annual Production, Cereals, Potatoes, Hay, and Tobacco, 1862-1879.....	44
Table 4: Total Assessment, Mill Creek Hundred, 1837 and 1861 Agricultural Production.	59
Table 5: Delaware's Population, by Race, 1850-1880.....	67
Table 6: New Castle and Kent County Population, by Race 1860 Census.....	68
Table 7: Population Engaged in Agriculture, New Castle and Kent Counties, 1840.....	69
Table 8: Tax Assessments, Mill Creek Hundred, 1837 and 1861, Sociocultural Context..	81
Table 9: Wealth Holding by Total Assessment, Mill Creek Hundred, 1837 and 1861....	84
Table 10: Wealth Holding by Personal Estate, Mill Creek Hundred, 1837 and 1861.....	86
Table 11: Wealth Holding by Personal Estate, Tenant Farmers, Mill Creek Hundred 1837 and 1861.....	87
Table 12: Number, Size & Value of Farms, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1879-1880.	99
Table 13: Number & Size of Farms, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1900.....	100
Table 14: Number, Size & Value of Farms, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1900, 1910	101
Table 15: Number, Size, & Value of Farms, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1900, 1910, 1920.....	103

	Page
Table 16: Number, and Size of Farms, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1929-1930.	104
Table 17: Number, Size, and Value of Farms, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1929-1930.....	105
Table 18: Size and Value of Farms by Type, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1929-1930.....	106
Table 19: Number, Size, and Value of Farms, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1930.....	108
Table 20: Number, Size and Value of Farms, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1930-1940.....	109
Table 21: Delaware Farms: Production of Cereal, Potatoes, Hay and Tobacco 1880-1886...	117
Table 22: Crop Production, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1879.....	118
Table 23: Crop Production, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1889.....	119
Table 24: Crop Production, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware, 1899.....	120
Table 25: Crop Production, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1809.....	121
Table 26: Crop Production, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1919.....	122
Table 27: Crop Production, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1919-1920.....	123
Table 28: Vegetable Production, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1919-1929....	125
Table 29: Crop Production, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1929-1939.....	126
Table 30: Vegetable Production, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1929-1939....	129
Table 31: Changes in Crop Production, New Castle and Kent County Farms, 1880-1940.....	130

	Page
Table 32: Crop Production, New Castle and Kent County Farms, 1880-1940.....	131
Table 33: Crop Production, New Castle County Farms Compared to Kent County Farms, 1880-1940.....	132
Table 34: Fruit Production, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1889.....	137
Table 35: Fruit Production, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1899.....	138
Table 36: Value of Farm Products by Farm Type, New Castle & Kent Counties, Delaware 1929.....	139
Table 37: Fruit Production, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1929.....	140
Table 38: Fruit Production, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1930-1940.....	141
Table 39: Fruit Production, New Castle and Kent County Farms 1880-1940.....	142
Table 40: Changes in Fruit Production, New Castle and Kent County Farms, 1880-1940.....	144
Table 41: Fruit Production, New Castle Compared to Kent County Farms, 1890-1940.....	145
Table 42: Livestock and Animal Production, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1879-1880.....	146
Table 43: Livestock and Animal Production, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1889.....	147
Table 44: Livestock and Animal Products, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1899.....	148
Table 45: Livestock and Animal Products, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1909-1910.	149
Table 46: Livestock and Animal Products, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1919-1920.	150
Table 47: Livestock and Animal Products, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1929-1930.	151

	Page
Table 48: Livestock and Animal Products, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1930-1940.	153
Table 49: Livestock on Farms, New Castle and Kent Counties, 1880-1940.....	155
Table 50: Livestock, New Castle Compared to Kent County, 1880-1940.....	160
Table 51: Animal Products, New Castle Compared to Kent County, 1880-1940.....	162
Table 52: Changes in Animal Products, New Castle and Kent County Farms 1880-1940.....	164
Table 53: Farm Machinery and Facilities, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1930.....	168
Table 54: Number, Size, and Value of Farms, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1939-1940.....	169
Table 55: Livestock and Animal Products by Farm Type, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1929-1930.....	171
Table 56: Land Use by Land Classes, New Castle County, 1937.....	172
Table 57: Land Use on Farms by Land Classes, New Castle County, 1937.....	174
Table 58: Livestock on Farms by Land Classes, New Castle County, 1937.....	175
Table 59: Land Use by Land Classes, Kent County, 1937.....	176
Table 60: Land Use on Farms by Land Classes, Kent County, 1937.....	177
Table 61: Livestock on Farms by Land Classes, Kent County, 1937.....	179
Table 62: Delaware's Rural Population 1880-1940....	189
Table 63: Tenure of Farms, by Race, New Castle and Kent Counties, 1880.....	192
Table 64: Tenure of Farms, by Race, New Castle and Kent Counties, 1900.....	193

	Page
Table 65: Farms and Farm Value, by Tenure and Ethnicity, New Castle and Kent Counties, 1910.....	195
Table 66: Farms and Farm Value, by Tenure and Ethnicity, new Castle and Kent Counties, 1920.....	196
Table 67: Farm Population, New Castle and Kent Counties, 1930.....	198
Table 68: Agricultural Workers, New Castle and Kent Counties, 1930.....	199
Table 69: Farm Tenure, New Castle and Kent Counties, 1930.....	200
Table 70: Farm Values by Tenure, New Castle and Kent Counties, 1930.....	202
Table 71: Farm Tenure by Farm Type, New Castle and Kent Counties, 1930.....	203
Table 72: Farm Population, New Castle and Kent Counties, 1940.....	206
Table 73: Farms and Farm Value, by Tenure, New and Kent Counties, 1940.....	207
Table 74: Farmers, New Castle and Kent Counties, 1940.....	209
Table 75: Number of Farms, New Castle and Kent Counties, 1860-1940.....	247
Table 76: Percentage Distribution of the General Soil Types by Land Classes, New Castle County, Delaware, 1937.....	250
Table 77: Percentage Distribution of the General Soil Types by Land Classes, Kent County, Delaware, 1936.....	250
Table 78: Number of Farmsteads, Rural Residences, and Other Buildings, Occupied or Vacant, by Land Classes, New Castle County, Delaware, 1937.....	251
Table 79: Number of Farmsteads, Rural Residences, and Other Buildings, Occupied or Vacant, by Land Classes, Kent County Delaware, 1937.....	251

	Page
Table 80: Summary of Known and Potential Historical Archaeological Sites (Agriculture), 1803-1950, Route 13 Planning Corridor, New Castle and Kent Counties.....	253
Table 81: Potential Historical Archaeological Sites Associated with Agriculture, New Castle and Kent Counties, 1830-1940, Route 13 Preliminary Study Corridor: Numbers of Potential Sites with and without Standing Buildings.....	258
Table 82: Historical Resources Identified in Planning Study of Route 301 Project Area, New Castle County, 1830-1940....	263
Table 83: Survey Project Areas, Historical Archaeological Resources, New Castle and Kent Counties.....	334
Table 84: Phase I Survey Project Areas, New Castle and Kent Counties 1) Located Archaeological Sites Associated with Historic Context, Agriculture and Farm Life, 1830-1940 2) Located No Archaeological Sites Associated with Historic Context, Agriculture and Farm Life, 1830-1940.....	336
Table 85: Geographical Locations of Agricultural Sites, New Castle and Kent Counties, 1830-1940.....	337
Table 86: Levels of Site Treatment, Agricultural Sites, New Castle and Kent Counties, 1830-1940.....	338
Table 87: Property Types, Agricultural Sites, New Castle and Kent Counties, 1830-1940...	340
Table 88: Site conditions, Agricultural Sties, New Castle and Kent Counties, 1830-1940...	341
Table 89: Date Ranges, Agricultural Sites, New Castle and Kent Counties, 1830-1940...	343
Table 90: Archaeological Potential of Tested Sites Associated with this Historic Context, Selected Portions of Proposed Route 13 Corridor, New Castle County.....	346

	Page
Table 91: Archaeological Potential of Tested Sites Associated with this Historic Context, Selected Portions of Proposed Route 13 Corridor, New Castle County.....	347